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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,

being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st December, 1957. This is a pleasure which is tinged with a certain amount of regret knowing that it will be my last Report in my capacity as your Port Medical Officer of Health as I shall shortly be commencing my new appointment in Peterborough.

Whilst there has been little change in the nature of the cargo traffic or in the principal ports from which vessels arrived, the trade of the Port has continued to give cause for satisfaction. The total number of vessels arriving has decreased slightly from 966 in 1956 to 939 in 1957, but vessels arriving from foreign ports have again increased from 682 to 746 for the same comparative years.

I am pleased to report that there has been a complete absence of any serious infectious diseases, and I am satisfied that the present arrangements are adequate to deal with any outbreak that may occur.

During the early part of the year some trouble was caused by several consignments of Italian Apples revealing excessive amounts of arsenic and lead, further particulars of which will be found in the body of the Report.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. SMEATON.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

FEBRUARY, 1958.

SECTION I - Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of officer.	Nature of appointment.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
SMEATON, W.G.	Port Medical Officer of Health.	1-7-50	M.B.,Ch.B., D.P.H. Barrister-at-Law.	Assistant C.M.O. - Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health - Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G.E.	Chief Port Health Inspector.	15-10-45	Cert S.I.B., Cert Meat & Food Inspector.	Chief Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
MORRIS, N.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	1-10-56 (Resigned 31-3-57)	Cert S.I.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
WHITTON, P.E.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	1-10-56	Cert S.I.B.	Additional Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
MILSOM, D.H.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	29 - 4-57	Cert S.I.B., Cert Meat & Food Inspector.	Additional Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health. — Public Health Department, 8, Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lincs. BOSTON 4601 (six lines)

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number Inspected.		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Port Health Inspectors.	
Foreign Ports.	746.	153,712.	12.	197.	Nil.
Coastwise.	193.	32,339.	Nil.	33.	1.
Total.	939.	186,051.	12.	230.	1.

SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ...	Number of passengers INWARDS : 261. Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 116.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	Principal IMPORTS : Aluminium Ingots, Battens and Boards, Bulbs, Clay, Deals, Feeding Stuffs, Fertilizers, Flour, Fruit and Vegetables, Glucose, Grain, Paper, Perlite, Petroleum, Potatoes, Salt, Sleepers, Starch, Steel Bars etc., Telegraph Poles and Waggon Bottoms. Principal EXPORTS : Cattle, Coal, Grain, Pig Iron, Sand, Vehicle Spares, Waste Paper and General.
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive ...	BELGIUM : Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, Hansweert, Rieme, Zeebrugge. DENMARK : Esbjerg, Fredericia. EGYPT : Alexandria. FINLAND : Hamina, Haukipudas, Helsinki, Kasko, Kemi, Kotka, Pateniemi, Uleaborg, Vasa. FRANCE : Bayonne, Bordeaux, Boulogne, Dieppe, Dunkirk. GERMANY : Bremen, Brunbuttel, Emden, Hamburg. HOLLAND : Amsterdam, Dordrecht, Koog Aan De Zaan, Maassluis, Rotterdam, Ymuiden. NORWAY : Halden, Oslo, Porsgrunn, Skien, Sundalsora, Tyssedal. POLAND : Danzig, Stettin. RUSSIA : Archangel, Kem, Leningrad, Onega, Petchora, Windau. SARDINIA : Cagliari. SPAIN : Almeria, Barcelona. SWEDEN : Burea, Gefle, Gothenburg, Halmstad, Karlshamn, Karlskrona, Kopmanholmen, Oskarshamn, Skelleftea, Stugsund, Sundsvall, Tunadal.

SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

SECTION V - Water supply.

1. Source of supply for

   (a) The District.

   (b) Shipping.

- NO CHANGE -

2. Reports of tests for contamination

- NO CHANGE -

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

- NO CHANGE -

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).
Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

- NO CHANGE -

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2).)

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

- NO CHANGE -

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b).)
Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

- NO CHANGE -

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).
Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under those Regulations.

- NO CHANGE -

5. Arrangements for :-

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox - see Section VII).

- NO CHANGE -

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts :

- NO CHANGE -

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION VII - Smallpox.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Laceby Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Arrangements have been made with the Medical Officer of Health for Grimsby that in all cases of smallpox the Isolation Hospital, Laceby, will provide ambulances and crews consisting of specially trained and vaccinated teams of attendants.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. J.H.C.Clarke, County Offices, Sleaford.	Dr. G. Nisbet, Bridge Street, Peterborough.	Dr. J. Glen, Springfield Hospital, Scarthoe, Grimsby.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor A.W. Downie, Bacteriology Department, Medical School, Ashton Street, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases landed from other ships.	Rubella.	Nil.	1.	1.

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1957.

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

There have been no cases of Malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1957.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, 10.

During the year no ships were found to be infested with rats.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Health Inspector.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

No ships were found to be rat infested.

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons.	13.
Ships from 301 - 1,000 tons.	12.
Ships from 1,001 - 3,000 tons.	1.
Total.	26.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections		Notices served		Result of serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Defects of Original Construction.	230	Nil.	Nil.	-
Structural Defects through wear and tear.	230	Nil.	2.	2 sailed before completion.
Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health	232	Nil.	4.	2 complied with. 2 sailed before compliance.
Total	232	Nil.	6.	2 complied with.

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations. 1934 and 1948.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION XVII - Food Inspection.

Imported Italian Apples.

During the early part of the year Italian Apples were imported into Boston and, on analysis, numerous samples revealed amounts of arsenic and lead beyond the recommended limits. These impurities were found mainly in the form of a deposit on the skin and around the calyces, consistent with the residue from a lead arsenate spray.

In all 18 samples were examined and 9 were found to contain lead and arsenic in excess of the recommended limits.

Appropriate local action was taken and reports were submitted to the Ministry of Health who in turn approached the Italian Embassy with a view to the necessary steps being taken to avoid further occurrences of this nature.